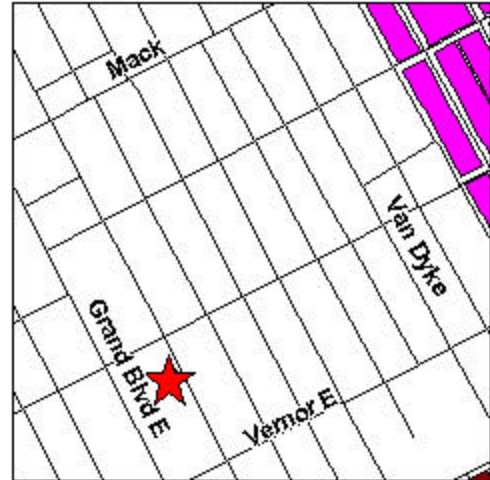


Moses W. Field House

2541 Field Avenue.

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Historic overview:

The house at 2541 and its original owner are both important in the evolution of Detroit. The house is one of only a few mid 19th century farms houses left in the city. Its owner, Moses W. Field was a merchant, landowner and politician.

Originally born in New York, he moved to Detroit on his 16th birthday. He made his fortune in the mercantile business and had the most successful grocery business in Detroit. Field also built and operated the Detroit Glass Works and was president of the Detroit Hoop Manufacturing Company. He also bought and sold real estate and accumulated an estate estimated to be worth more than half a million dollars. In 1886 he purchased the exclusive rights for the manufacturer of wood pulp from pine and other woods, which became essential in the production of paper. He was elected as a representative of Congress from 1873-75 and supported Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Among his civic contributions included the installation of the first drinking fountain in Detroit and one of the organizers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals in 1865.

The house was built in the late 1860's and the family moved in, in 1869. The family lived there for about 10 years. The house sits set back on the lot and hidden by foliage. The details of the house hint to the style of an Italian Villa. It is a brick house, square in plan with simple wood Italian brackets supporting a shallow hip roof. The house has since been painted gray and the brick foundation has been covered in stucco to look like stone. The house has two chimneys and only a portion of the original full-width porch remains. The house originally contained 12 rooms with a central hall and stairs leading to the second floor. There are carved marble and wood fireplaces on the first and second floor. In 1935 the house was converted into two flats and minor changes were made but simple woodwork and moldings are still intact as well as the original height of the ceilings. The house is currently privately owned.

